

Abstract

The invention refers to an *in vitro* method of functionally determining at physiological conditions deficiencies in the lectin pathway of the complement system, the method comprising the steps of (a) providing a sample of mammalian blood, serum, plasma or another body fluid; (b) preventing in the sample the activation of the classical pathway by contacting the sample with an inhibitor of a molecule of the C1 complex of the complement system; (c) preventing in the sample the activation of the alternative pathway; (d) activating the lectin pathway in the sample; and (e) determining in the sample any activation of the autologous C5b-9 complex. The invention also refers to a kit for functionally determining in a body fluid from a mammal deficiencies in the lectin pathway of the complement system, which kit comprises the separate items (a) an inert carrier and a substance activating the lectin pathway; (b) a diluent comprising an inhibitor of a molecule of the C1 complex; and an antibody against the autologous C5b-9 complex.